

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00059 170913Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 /052 W
-----170919Z 063318 /20

O R 170829Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2907
INFO USIA WASHDF
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SECSTATE FOR EUR/SOV, USIA FOR IEU, MOSCOW FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: HARRASSMENT OF UPI LENINGRAD CORRESPONDENT EMIL SVEILIS

1. UPI MOSCOW BUREAU FILED OFFICIAL PROTEST FRIDAY (JANUARY 14)
WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS DEPARTMENT CONCERNING APPARENT
HARRASSMENT OF ITS LENINGRAD BUREAU CHIEF, EMIL R. SVEILIS.
INCIDENT PROVOKING PROTEST WAS REMOVAL OF WHEEL FROM SVEILIS'
CAR EVENING OF JANUARY 12 (WEDNESDAY) OUTSIDE ASTORIA HOTEL WHERE
CORRESPONDENT HAD PARKED IT FOR TWO HOURS WHILE MEETING
DISSIDENT SOURCE.

2. UPON RETURNING TO CAR SVEILIS NOTICED HEAVY STEERING.
ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT SVEILIS' RIGHT-FRONT TIRE
(WITH ONLY 3800 KILOMETERS ON IT - SAME AS CAR) HAD BEEN REPLACED
BY BALD ONE AND THAT ORIGINAL SILVER-COLORED RIM ALSO REPLACED
BY ONE COVERED WITH BLACK PAINT Splotches. SVEILIS DIS-
COVERED THAT TIRE WAS ALMOST FLAT AND WHEEL HELD ON BY ONLY
TWO HAND-TIGHTENED LUGS. SVEILIS PROMPTLY INFORMED
SOVIET MILITIA WHICH IMMEDIATELY SENT SIX AGENTS TO QUESTION
HIM IN A SMALL, UNMARKED ROOM IN ASTORIA HOTEL FOR THREE HOURS.
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MILITIA OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE SVEILIS' SUB-
SEQUENT REPEATED TELEPHONE AND WRITTEN INQUIRIES AS TO
PROGRESS ON THE CASE.

3. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO WAY TO PROVE IT, SVEILIS IS CERTAIN
WHEEL WAS SWITCHED OUTSIDE ASTORIA DESPITE CONTINUOUS PRE-
SENCE THERE OF TWO MILITIAMEN. SOVIETS DENY THIS, BUT

SVEILIS CLAIMS HE ALWAYS CHECKS HIS TIRES BEFORE HE LEAVES HOME FOLLOWING ANOTHER INCIDENT LAST MONTH. ON THAT OCCASION HE DROVE ONLY ONE FOOT FROM PARKING PLACE IN FRONT OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING WHEN TIRE SUDDENLY WENT FLAT. IT WAS LATER FOUND TO CONTAIN A SPIKE. SVEILIS WAS ON HIS WAY AT THE TIME TO AN UNOFFICIAL ART EXHIBIT FREQUENTED BY DISSIDENTS.

4. WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH SVEILIS WAS BEING SYSTEMATICALLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY FOLLOWED, INCLUDING NIGHT OF INCIDENT. SVEILIS HAS BEEN HEAVILY SHADOWED SINCE JAN. 7, WHEN HE MET ANOTHER DISSIDENT SOURCE.

5. SVEILIS IS U.S. CITIZEN BORN IN LATVIA, A FACT WHICH HE SAID RAISED MILITIA EYEBROWS DURING QUESTIONING LAST WEDNESDAY. HE STATES THAT UPON LEAVING ASTORIA AT CONCLUSION OF QUESTIONING HE WAS APPROACHED BY MAN WHO HAD BEEN CONVERSING WITH THE TWO MILITIAMEN ON DUTY OUTSIDE. THIS MAN ASKED SVEILIS IN RUSSIAN IF HE WOULD LIKE TO GO MEET QUOTE TWO LATVIAN GIRLS UNQUOTE. MAN RESPONDED IN ENGLISH TO SVEILIS' ABRUPT NEGATIVE REPLY. SVEILIS CITES THIS AS BLATANT ATTEMPT TO SET HIM UP.

6. WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENT IS THIRD SINCE SVEILIS ESTABLISHED UPI BUREAU IN LENINGRAD LAST SEPTEMBER. IN ADDITION TO INCIDENTS ABOVE, SVEILIS' WALLET STOLEN BY PICKPOCKET IN ASTORIA HOTEL SHORTLY AFTER BUREAU OPENED. WALLET CONTAINED SEVERAL IMPORTANT NAMES AND ADDRESSES AND SVEILIS NOW SPECULATES THIS INCIDENT TOO WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL. THOUGH HE PROMPTLY REPORTED IT TO MILITIA, HIS WALLET HAS STILL NOT BEEN FOUND.
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7. FYI SVEILIS PLANS TO BRING UP HIS PROBLEMS AT A LUNCHEON SCHEDULED IN HIS HONOR TOMORROW (JAN. 18) BY LENINGRAD TASS BUREAU CHIEF ALEKSANDR SERGEYEVICH OSIPOV. LUNCHEON WAS ARRANGED BEFORE WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENT. ALSO INVITED: HEAD OF TASS DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, MOROZOV, FROM MOSCOW AS WELL AS UNSPECIFIED LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES AND BPAO.

8. CONSULATE GENERAL AND EMBASSY PLAN NO ACTION PENDING FONMIN REPLY TO UPI PROTEST.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, JOURNALISTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770016-0698
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770146/aaaabodw.tel
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARRASSMENT OF UPI LENINGRAD CORRESPONDENT EMIL SVEILIS
TAGS: SOPN, UR, (SVEILIS, EMIL R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dad2f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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